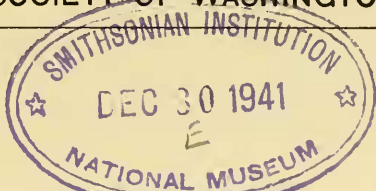


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONAN UNDESCRIBED SKINK (*LYGOSOMA*) FROM  
NEW CALEDONIA.

BY ARTHUR LOVERIDGE.

In the year following the publication of his work on "Les Reptiles de la Nouvelle-Calédonie et des îles Loyalty," (*loc. cit. infra*) the late Dr. Jean Roux arranged an exchange with the Museum of Comparative Zoology which included one of the Mont Canala skinks that he referred to *gracile* Bavay. Some ten years ago I noticed differences between this specimen and Boulenger's (1887, Cat. Snake Brit. Mus., 3, p. 331) redescription, but only recently through the courtesy of Mr. J. R. Slevin, have I been able to obtain a genuine *gracile* (M.C.Z. 46172, from Yahoue Valley, near Noumea, New Caledonia) for comparison.

Both skinks fall into the group which Boulenger called *Siaphos*; recently, however, Malcolm Smith (1937, Rec. Indian Mus., 39, p. 219) in his Revision of *Lygosoma*, refers *Siaphos* (type *aequalis*) to the subsection *Lygosoma* and transfers the New Caledonian *gracile*, *mariae*, and *nigrofasciolum* to the subsection *Leiolopisma*. Certainly the new skink is most nearly related to *gracile*, of which it may be a montane form, and as it lacks a name I take pleasure in associating it with that of our good correspondent at the California Academy of Sciences.

***Lygosoma slevini*, sp. nov.**

*Lygosoma gracile* Roux (not of Bavay), 1913, Nova Caledonia, Zool., 1, p. 133.

*Type*.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 9295. A ♀ from Mont Canala, New Caledonia. Collected by Dr. Jean Roux, January, 1912.

*Diagnosis.*—Differs from *gracile* in possessing 4 (not 5) toes; midbody scales which are keeled (not smooth) and arranged in 22–26 (*vide* Roux; not 20) rows.

*Description.*— Except for the points noted in the diagnosis above, this skink agrees well with Boulenger's redescription of the types of *gracile*. Roux has described all variations, both of scalation and coloration, in detail in the citation given above.

*Size.*—Total length of type ♀, 72 (42 + 30) mm.